



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023A99-29
I-B-144

August 3, 2000

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORThe Honorable Argeo Paul Cellucci
Governor of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, MA 02133

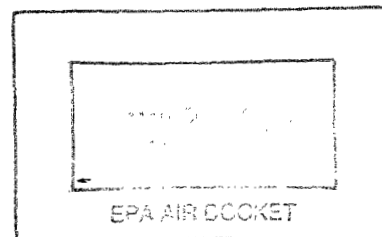
Dear Governor Cellucci:

Thank you for your letter of July 13, 2000, forwarding Massachusetts' recommendations on eight-hour ozone designations. Making recommendations on geographic boundaries for ozone is a critical step towards providing the residents in Massachusetts with an important tool to make informed decisions about air pollution levels in their cities and towns. We intend to carefully review your recommendations and will work with your Department of Environmental Protection in determining final boundaries for your nonattainment areas.

Even though EPA's new ozone standard is pending before the courts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, in its 1999 decision, recognized that the designation process would continue. EPA is obligated under the Clean Air Act and the 1998 Transportation Equity Act to complete this process, which includes reviewing your recommendations and making ours later this year. As a result, EPA is moving forward with the designation process. We are proceeding with this action to protect public health, while appealing other parts of the May 14, 1999, D.C. Circuit decision to the Supreme Court. This will ensure that people living in nonattainment areas will have clean air as quickly as possible once the ongoing litigation is completed. Together, we can move forward to bring cleaner, healthier air to the people in our state.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Richard Burkhart of the Air Quality Planning Unit, Office of Ecosystem Protection at (617) 918-1664 to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Mindy S. Lubber
Regional Administratorcc: Robert Durand, EOE
Lauren Liss, DEP
Barbara Kwetz, DEP
Nancy Seidman, DEP

Help us serve you better. If you need to call us regarding this correspondence in the future, please reference 01-0000469.
